



JANE LATHROP STANFORD

UNIVERSITY FOUNDER

As California's First Lady from 1861 to 1863, Jane Stanford championed education. In full partnership, Jane and her husband Leland founded And funded California's Stanford University, in their son's memory.

When Leland died in 1893, the court challenged his will. It awarded Jane a meager sum with which to support herself, and a university. Advisors urged her to close the school, but Jane refused. Instead, she operated it by cutting spending, cashing an insurance policy and slashing her personal expenses.

Jane's plan worked. She later endowed the university and saw it flourish.

